

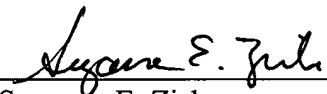
Remarks

The amendments to the specification are being made to update the priority data and to add the requisite abstract of the disclosure. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2 and 27 to 44 will be pending in the application. It is believed that no new matter has been introduced by this Preliminary Amendment. Support for new claims 27 to 32 and 34 to 44 can be found, *inter alia*, in original claims 1-26 and elsewhere throughout the specification. Support for new claim 33 is found, *inter alia*, in original claim 12; on page 10, second full paragraph, and throughout the specification.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and § 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **constructive petition for extension of time** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Dated: **January 12, 2005**
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Respectfully submitted,
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